

## **Workshop Participants Identified What Is Needed for Agencies to Have Capabilities to Conduct Cumulative Impact Analyses (July 22, 2004)**

1. Need management support for cumulative impact analyses at higher levels
2. Need to get Federal and state agencies involved cooperatively
3. Need more money
4. Need training within the agency to carry it forward and to create a culture of understanding cumulative impact analysis within each agency
5. Need more support for monitoring cumulative impacts
6. Need good examples for each resource or at least get the best examples organized and made easily available. This would help create guidelines regarding what should be looked at and included. Perhaps the NEPA Task Force created by CEQ has some examples that could be made available – should call.
7. Need support for gathering baseline information and cataloging existing data.
8. Need to look at areas in terms of trends
9. Need to get all federal agencies on a standardized GIS system so data could be more easily shared
10. Need to find out what GIS data exist and are available – a clearinghouse of data
11. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) puts a great deal of work into the regional/statewide transportation plans – this information needs to be made available for the NEPA documents at the Federal level (purpose and need and alternatives)
12. Cumulative impact analyses are primarily conducted by consultants for federal agencies – these consultants need to be better trained to do a better job of cumulative impact analyses for Federal NEPA documents
13. EPA, including Region 5, is developing a web-based pilot project called NEPA Assist, which may be launched within 2004. This will have GIS layers and raw data and a set of census layers built in. This platform will provide the ability to access information in a number of ways, including spatial/geographic. EPA hopes to incorporate data from other agencies into the system
14. Recognizing that cumulative impact analyses are difficult and that data are lacking, need to understand that best professional judgment is defensible in court as long as the legal system can see your documented evidence of the procedures that you followed.
15. NTIS is the central repository of Federal agency NEPA EAs and EISs
16. COMDATE is the EPA database for all EISs filed with EPA for publishing Notices of Availability in the Federal Register
17. Besides informing the public of the utility of cumulative impact analyses, agency management also needs to be informed
18. Use the Administrative Record for documenting the decisions and discussions on temporal and geographic scope selected for each cumulative impact analysis and all

assumptions made regarding a particular cumulative impact analysis. The Administrative Record should be created throughout the progress of the analysis and preparation of an EA/EIS